



## Great Glen Newsletter

**December 2018**

Registered Charity No. 1099411

[www.greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://www.greatglenu3a.co.uk)

A very warm welcome to our new members: Christine Belton, Heather MacDermid, Magi Nipper, Angela Parker, Ken Reeve and Trevor Wright.

### Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

It's the December 'Christmas Crackers' meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December. There are still a few tickets available from Rachael Snashall. Don't miss it! Doors open at 9.30 with music from 9.45 a.m. I'm expecting to see you all in your Christmas costumes.

There was a successful Learn Something New session on Astronomy last month and a further meeting is planned to see if there will be a continuing interest in this topic (see under Learn Something New below).

Contact John Johnson if you would like to join in.

Be sure you know when your groups are meeting during this month and early January. One session that is on is the annual Singing-for-fun Christmas meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December. There will be carols and other seasonal songs to be sung – it starts at 2.00 p.m. at the

To email replace /at/ with @

Methodist Hall. Come along and take a break from Christmas shopping.

I was just musing over what next year might bring and realised that it will mark 50 years since man first set foot on the moon. Seems like yesterday to most of us! And although it feels quite early in the month to be saying this, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Make the most of your U3A membership in 2019.

Best wishes to you all

*Peter Russell* [chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Committee News**

### **Committee Vacancies**

It has been heartening to receive recently some expressions of interest in joining the Trustee Committee, and some are now learning the ropes so we can have a smooth transition at the next Annual General Meeting. That said, there are still vacancies. If you might be interested in joining us, and feel you have something to offer, please have a word with any Committee member or contact Peter Russell.

### **New Members Meeting – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Many thanks to members and group leaders who attended the meeting.

*Peter Russell* [chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Calling All Group Leaders: Registers for October and November**

As we approach the end of 2018 and three quarters of the way through our current Gift Aid year, I would like to thank all those Group Leaders who have submitted registers for October and November and who are up-to-date. I shall be very grateful if Group Leaders who still have registers outstanding for October and/or November could submit these as soon as possible and by the end of the year at the very latest. Thank you for your valuable help and cooperation.

*Bill Maxted* [giftaid/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:giftaid/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259  
2616

## **Monthly Meetings**

**At our meeting on 11 December Great Glen U3A members (with some invited guests from St. Cuthbert's School) will provide a festive farrago to get you in the mood for Christmas.**

11 December 2018 *Christmas Crackers!*

(seasonal entertainment)

8 January 2019 *Tribute to Les Dawson Mike Leonard*

12 February 2019 *Save the Children Josephine*

*Burgess*

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. For Christmas Crackers!

To email replace /at/ with @

(admission by ticket only) doors open 09.30 a.m. with refreshments at the end of the show. Otherwise doors open 10.00 a.m. for tea and coffee, event / speaker 10.30 a.m. **Coffee rota – see below.**

## **Coffee Rota**

*Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).*

11 December – **Military History and New Age Kurling Groups**

8 January – **Papercraft Group**

12 February – **Pub Lunches Group**

## **What Space has Done for Us** (*November meeting*)

Professor Mark Sims stepped into the breach at rather short notice to deliver what proved to be a masterclass in how to present a highly technical subject to a lay audience. We learned that space contributes a massive £16 bn to the UK economy, and that the University of Leicester plays an important worldwide role. The talk described the history of spacecraft before moving to review the great range of applications to modern life on earth. I was shocked to hear one of my few pieces of prior ‘knowledge’, gleaned from a previous talk, swiftly debunked: apparently we do not owe the development of Teflon to space science! But there

To email replace /at/ with @

have been huge advances in medicine, location plotting, weather forecasting and climate monitoring, monitoring changes in the surface and atmosphere of the planet earth etc on which we are now heavily dependent. We were treated to illustrations from satellites of extraordinary resolution and clarity. Other developments include advancing efforts to protect the earth from catastrophic impacts from asteroids. The talk led to the liveliest question and answer session I can recall. Although we did not get definitive answers on how to deal with the ever-growing problems of space debris or whether anyone else is ‘out there’, I think we all accepted Mark’s words that, ‘If only we are wise enough we can make a great future for ourselves out of space.’

*Robert Mansfield*

### **On the recent Death of Bill Miller**

Linda Hobart writes:

*I would very much like to say a few words about Bill as, other than being a great Calligraphy teacher, he was a dear friend of mine. I have been in touch with both Andrew and Jane during Bill’s latest illness and they have kept me informed as to his condition. I visited him in Glenfield and at Devonshire Court but whilst there he deteriorated.*

*I cannot remember what profession Bill was in before he became a fire fighter but during our ‘lessons’ he would occasionally talk of some of the problems he*

To email replace /at/ with @

*had had to face in this line of work, whether or not the outcome had been successful. When Amy and I could no longer go to their flat for lessons we still kept in touch. He suffered with Paget's Disease (a condition which affects the bones) for many years, but did not let it affect his way of life although it was clear that he was in a great deal of pain. He was a gentle man with a good sense of humour and a very kind nature and I will miss him very much.*

## **LEARN SOMETHING NEW**

### **Astronomy**

The prospective Astronomy Group will be meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Ruth Warner Room at 10.00 a.m. All those interested in getting this group off the ground are asked to come to discuss all aspects of how the group will proceed. Please try to come along if you can, if there are any issues you can call me.

*John Johnson*

07527 520504

### **Sign Language**

How many of you would be interested in learning the basics of sign language? Maybe you already have some experience you could share. Do you know someone who could provide a couple of hours training? Watch out for further details in the next newsletter and at the January monthly meeting.

To email replace /at/ with @

*Peter Russell* [chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **Art Group**

Our last meeting in 2018 is on 6<sup>th</sup> December. We shall meet again on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, when we shall try our hand at Winter scenes.

*Rachael Snashall* [art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

### **Book Group (Thursdays)**

The Group will not meet in December. Our next meeting is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

*Patricia Mansfield* [patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com)  
270 8284

### **Bowling**

We are looking for new players to join our Group. We play at the indoor bowls centre at Market Harborough Leisure centre every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon during the winter months.

*Ann Spray* 281 0324

### **Carpet Bowls**

We are still looking for new members so why not come along and give us a try? We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. No previous experience necessary. There

To email replace /at/ with @

will not be a meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December but we shall start again on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

*Peter Stanley*

[carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2152

## **English Country Dancing**

### **Christmas Greetings from English Country Dancers - *Wassail!***

On Tuesday December 4th the ECD group welcomed the Beaker Folk music group of Kibworth U3A to play for our dancing. The group is run by Michael and Lorna Rodber and features Jennifer Hawley on keyboard, all of whom are also regular members of the ECD group. We enjoyed dancing to two pieces played by Beaker Folk - firstly a circle dance, *Gathering Peascods* which was first recorded in the 1651 edition of John Playford's "English Dancing Master" series. Secondly we danced *Juniata*, a longways dance written in 2011 by the American dance-writer Sharon Green, to the tune "Drifting on the Lazy Juniata" by the American composer Jonathan Jensen; the slow waltz-time movements of the dance portray drifting down the picturesque Juniata river in Pennsylvania on a hot summer afternoon - very different to a cold winter afternoon in Great Glen! We thank Beaker Folk for joining us, and hope we may be able to dance to their playing again. To conclude the afternoon some of the musicians joined us for a traditional English dance

To email replace /at/ with @

from 1713, *In the Fields of Frost and Snow*, the lyrics of which are the song of a young swain who complains he has to rise early on cold winter mornings to tend the animals on his father's farm; his song lists the various animals and the noises they make, and is considered a forerunner of the popular children's song "*Old MacDonald had a Farm*"!

The ECD Group will finish its 2018 meetings on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December when we shall hold our "Christmas Party" afternoon. Please note we shall start at 1.00 p.m. instead of 1.30 p.m. and group members are invited to wear Christmas hats and jumpers and bring festive food to share! We shall dance to popular "Singalong" Christmas tunes and carols: *Jingle Bells*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *See Amid the Winter's Snow*, *We Three Kings*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly*, and *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*, so everybody can join in!

The group will then break for Christmas and the New Year and resume its regular Tuesday dancing on 8<sup>th</sup> January . Over the Christmas/New Year period there are Christmas Party dances at several local folkdance clubs which members are invited to attend. For details, contact ...

*Peter Meacock* [ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 3600

## **Evening Bridge**

Members of the Tuesday evening bridge group at the Methodist church are asked to note that for December

To email replace /at/ with @

only we shall be playing at the Library on the second week (11<sup>th</sup> December) instead of the third week (18<sup>th</sup> December).

**The Group wishes all Great Glen U3A members a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.**

*Andy Tyler* [eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2264 or 07879 234046

## **Family History**

We shall meet as usual on 12<sup>th</sup> December but have decided not to meet on Boxing Day. We shall also meet as usual next month on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January. All welcome at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

*Eric Orbell* [familyhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

## **Flower Arranging**

Creating new arrangements as we move from season to season can be very rewarding and provides our homes with wonderful decoration. Come along and join us on the first Wednesday afternoon each month. New members will be very welcome.

*Beryl Connolly*

07423 311 013

## **French Conversation**

After the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December, there will be no further meetings till 9<sup>th</sup> January. Joyeux Noel!

*Jim Picken* [frenchconversation/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchconversation/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2035

## **History**

To email replace /at/ with @

We've just had our annual History quiz. The next History group meeting is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall when we shall be looking further at the Plantagenets.

Everyone is welcome.

*Peter Russell* [history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **History of Art**

The meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> December has been cancelled. Meetings will start again on 16<sup>th</sup> January when we shall be looking at the paintings of Fred Cumming. Never heard of him? Come to the meeting and find out what he has been painting.

*David Brooke* [historyofart/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:historyofart/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2520

## **Learn French Together**

Would you like to learn French? We are an informal, friendly, self-teaching group of beginners. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. Please contact me.

*Jan Johnson* [frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

## **Line Dancing**

This year's line dancing will finish for the Christmas break on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We shall re-start in the new year on 3<sup>rd</sup> January in the Sports Hall at 1.30

To email replace /at/ with @

p.m. New members are always welcome, so if you feel that you need some regular exercise after all the Christmas feasting, do come along and give line dancing a try. It is good for both the body and the brain, and it is great fun too. Happy Christmas to you all.

*Jackie Jordan* [linedancing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:linedancing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 9199

## **Military History**

We shall meet as usual on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall.

*Eric Orbell* [militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

## **Mini Bridge**

I would like to wish everyone at Minibridge a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year we shall not be playing over the Christmas period. The proposed session on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December is cancelled and as New Year's Day is a Tuesday we shall not be playing again until Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Hope to see you all in the New Year.

*Terry Evans* [minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2102

## **New Age Kurling**

No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand at this activity? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. The

To email replace /at/ with @

final session for 2018 will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Then 11<sup>th</sup> January next year.

*Peter Russell* [kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Papercraft**

Our New Year meeting will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2.00 p.m. Meanwhile have a great Christmas and make sure you send all those lovely cards that you have made over the last two months. No meeting in December.

*Stella Orbell* [papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

## **Pub Lunches**

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

*Margaret Hudson*

271 5064

## **Quiz Group**

We will not be meeting in December as the fourth Monday falls on Christmas Eve. The next meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> January when Peter Russell will be asking the questions.

*Rachael Snashall* [quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259  
2830

## **Singing for Fun**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m. in the  
Methodist Hall

To email replace /at/ with @

Carols and other Christmas songs  
Everyone is welcome

*Peter Russell* [chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

### **Sunday Singles Lunch**

Meetings for December and January take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club. We are looking for a new venue thereafter.

*Judith Measom*

279 1509

### **Swimming**

There is no swimming in December. The next swim will be on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

*David Brooke* [swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2520

### **Table Tennis**

We are taking a Christmas break on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December. After that we meet again on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

*Janet Freestone* [tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2803

### **Table Top Games**

Our final session this year is at 2.00 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Methodist Chapel. We then look forward to welcoming members old and new on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019, when we resume our monthly pattern of meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays. New members please phone so we know to expect you.

To email replace /at/ with @

*Helen Edwards* [ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

## **Ukulele Group**

After performing at the U3A Christmas Concert and for the Leicester Bowling Club, the Ukulele Group, "Uke3A", will be taking a rest until the new year when our normal meetings will resume on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Merry Christmas everyone.

*Alan Mawby* [ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2599

## **Walking Without Stiles**

The next walk will be on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 around and about Foxton village and locks. Everyone interested in joining in the walk please contact

*John Johnson* 212 2469 or 07527 520504

*Elizabeth Cooke* [walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
270 4524 or 07957 288060

## **Writing for Pleasure**

So far we have had two successful meetings in which we have looked at characterisation and setting when considering writing a short story. So now we have quite a long time to think of a plot and a story to interest our fellow authors. Our next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in January – Tuesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2.00 p.m. (No meeting in December as it would have been on Christmas Day!) We should love it if

To email replace /at/ with @

there is anyone else who would like to join us. We are having fun and you are missing out!

*Stella Orbell*

259 2095

## **Animal Antics**

**A duck, a skunk and a deer  
Went out for dinner  
At a Great Glen restaurant  
One night.**

**When it came time to pay  
The skunk didn't have a scent  
The deer didn't have a buck  
So they put the meal on the Duck's bill**

### ***Editor's Note:***

***Dear readers, be assured that no one was harmed in the making of this tale. However please do NOT take these festive creatures as your seasonal role models. Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and active New Year!***